

# UNITED CAPITAL FUNDING CORP.

*The Growth Factor*

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JUN - 9 2005

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02-6

JUNE 7, 2005

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION:

AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE MARINE INSTITUTE FOR THE PAST YEAR OR SO I HAVE DEVELOPED A GREAT DEAL OF APPRECIATION AND RESPECT FOR THE EXCELLENT RESULTS THAT ARE BEING ACHIEVED BY THE CLIENTS OF PINELLAS MARINE INSTITUTE. NOT ONLY ARE THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN BEING TRAINED TO TAKE A RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN SOCIETY -- THEY ARE BEING GIVEN THE TOOLS AND TRAINING TO TAKE PRODUCTIVE ROLES IN OUR ECONOMY.

AS AN EMPLOYER IN THE AREA, I SEE DAILY THE HIGH COST WE PAY BY UNDEREDUCATING, UNDERTRAINING, UNDERQUALIFYING OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

MY OBSERVATIONS WOULD LEAD ME TO CONCLUDE THAT WITHOUT THE TECHNICAL SKILLS TO FUNCTION IN OUR BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, WE ARE DENYING ENTRANCE TO MANY CAPABLE AND DESERVING YOUNG ADULTS.

I TRUST WE WILL BE ABLE TO SECURE THE FUNDING FOR TOP LEVEL TECHNOLOGY OUR CLIENTS DESERVE.

SINCERELY,



GERARD J. CURLEY  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
UNITED CAPITAL FUNDING, CORP.

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**JUDY L. ESTREN**

Executive Assistant Public Defender

Criminal Justice Center  
14250 49th Street North  
Clearwater, FL 33762**BOB DILLINGER**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER**  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

June 3, 2005

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Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

RE: E-rate funding for the Pinellas Marine Institute

Gentlemen:

I am writing to voice my support of the Pinellas Marine Institute request for E-rate funding for the 2005-06 fiscal year. As a member of their Board of Trustees as well as an attorney in the juvenile division of the Office of the Public Defender in the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida, I have seen first hand the incredible needs of the adjudicated youth in our juvenile justice system. Without up-to-date technology and the training to use it, these young men and women will continue to fall between the cracks - have very little hope of returning to school, competing in today's job market and reversing their present cycle of crime and poverty.

Enhanced technology at the Pinellas Marine Institute allows for our neediest kids to earn GED's, prepare themselves for college or technical school, enter the job market and generally improve their potential to return successfully to society.

I encourage you to extend this much needed funding to the kids of the Pinellas Marine Institute.

Sincerely,

Judy L. Estren

Executive Assistant Public Defender

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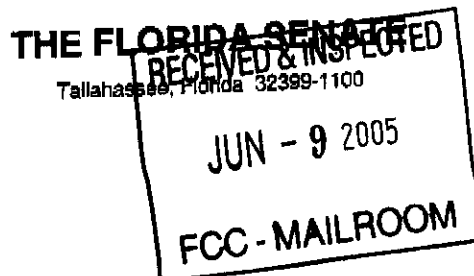
**PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES**

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SENATOR DENNIS L. JONES, D.C.  
13th District



COMMITTEES:  
Regulated Industries, Chair  
Ethics and Elections  
Health and Human Services Appropriations  
Health Care

JOINT COMMITTEE:  
Intergovernmental Relations

June 6, 2005

Federal Communications Commission

Re: E-rate Funding

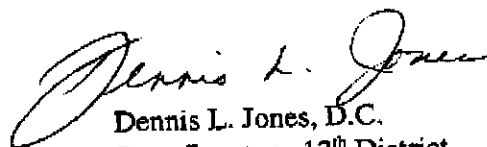
To Whom It May Concern:

As a board member with the Pinellas Marine Institute for many years, I am writing requesting federal e-rate funding. These funds will support modern technology at PMI. This will help with such things as high speed internet for student labs, GED programs, on-line course work for students, and remedial programs of all kinds.

The need and value of top level technology for our PMI students is invaluable in this day and age. Our kids are already generally disadvantaged in terms of family income and technology in the home. They need everything they can get at PMI. The workforce needs workers trained in today's technology. Without these federal funds, our kids are going to miss out on the training they need to succeed in today's world and be more likely to continue on a negative path with their life choices.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Dennis L. Jones, D.C.  
State Senator - 13<sup>th</sup> District

DLJ/bc

REPLY TO:  
☐ 8940 Seminole Boulevard, Seminole, Florida 33772 (727) 549-6411  
☐ 222 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (904) 487-5065

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

TOM LEE  
President of the Senate

CHARLIE CLARY  
President Pro Tempore

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Page 1 of 1

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INVESTMENT BANKERS  
Since 1980Building *wealth* for the retirement years...providing *income* to enjoy them

3 June 2005

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D. C.

Re: E-Rate Funding for Pinellas Marine Institute

Gentlemen:

I am writing in support of the Pinellas Marine Institute (PMI) request for E-Rate Funding for FY 2005 - 2006.

As a member of the board of Trustees of PMI I see first hand on a continuing month to month basis the needs of the adjudicated youth in our juvenile justice system. With up to date technology and the training to utilize it many of these young men and women develop the courage and enthusiasm to return to school and complete their education. They acquire the enthusiasm of knowledge, gain confidence and develop a desire to compete in today's job market and reverse their cycle of poverty and crime.

The enhanced technology at PMI allows our students to earn GED's, complete technical training, prepare for college and generally improve their successful return to the community.

As a result, I strongly request you extend this much needed funding to the students of the Pinellas Marine Institute, allowing PMI to maintain our high success rate.

Sincerely,

Roderic A. Johnson

P.O. Box 11749 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733-1749  
720 Second Avenue S. • St. Petersburg, FL 33701-4006  
(800) 868-6864 • Phone (727) 825-0522 • Fax (727) 898-1320  
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June 3, 2005

## Federal Communications Commission

I believe that Pinellas Marine Institute (PMI) should have Internet technology because my fellow students could access certain websites and view information that was previously unavailable to us. Such information would be the information relating to the General Educational Development (GED) program, for example. Some GED students are very serious about a high school diploma. If these students had the Internet capabilities, then, they could go onto helpful sites such as <http://www.floridatechnet.org>.

Other uses for technology at PMI would be digital recording cameras. The productive technological uses for these cameras would be things such as a "morning show", information throughout the day brought to us without us going to the PMI Large Group, or just so that students could do documentaries for homework so that the students and staff at PMI would understand that subject better.

Outside organizations would probably question the thought about providing delinquents technology, even though it could help us find what we would really like to do in life, other than breaking the law. If one of the students in PMI picked up a video camera one day, then that student might one day become a TV or movie producer, or a student that just discovered the internet in PMI might become the next Bill Gates, and make our daily lives easier.

Just because the students that attend PMI committed crimes, it does not mean that they will always be that way. Many of the students here would like to change for the better, so why not give them a chance by allowing them technological advances that they may never have the opportunity to use again? Some of the students aren't as privileged as other U.S citizens that might be why they did the things that they did. But if they had the opportunity to use the Internet, or video cameras, or computers in general, then, that may be one more life that has been salvaged from the streets and from the other evils of the world.

To reiterate, I think that the students should be able to have the opportunity to use technology as other children do. They may not deserve the privilege in some peoples' eyes, but to me---every one deserves a chance, no matter how badly they've messed up.

Thank you for your time!

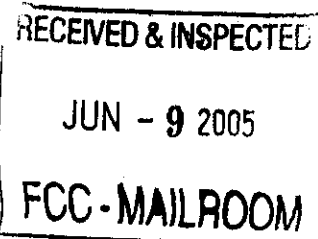
Regards,

  
Matthew Fifik

PMI Student

June 3, 2005

## **Federal Communications Commission**



**Dear Sir / Madam:**

**My name is Alyssa Bautel, and I am a student at Pinellas Marine Institute (PMI). PMI is a community-based high school for clients of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). I write this letter to the Federal Communications Commission because I (we) need your support in the name of education.**

**I believe our world has changed, and the speed in which we communicate has changed too. Although books, magazines, and the written word continue to inform (and shape) our understanding of the world, the Internet has emerged as a positive proponent of academic progress within society and, more importantly, our educational system. In a nutshell, students must prepare for their respective roles in an ever-competitive marketplace of ideas.**

**Here at Pinellas Marine Institute, my fellow students are not unlike other students in that they too desire access to knowledge.**

**Simply put, it puts us in instant touch with a whole new world; it informs our opinions.**

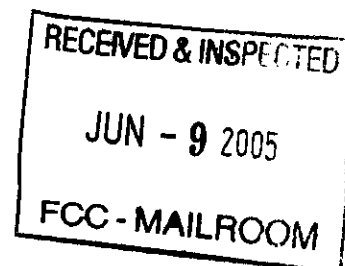
**While some of our students have grown up with access to the Internet, others have not benefited from Internet technology for reasons beyond their individual control, primarily economics. It is quite possible, though, those within the latter group of students may look at the educational process with a renewed perspective. They do not suffer from information-overload, just the opposite.**

**We request the kind consideration of the Federal Communications Commission concerning this important matter. Respectfully,**

*Alyssa Bautel*

**Alyssa Bautel  
Student**

**June 6, 2005**



**Federal Communications Commission**

**Dear Madam / Sir**

**We need your help!**

**My name is Darren Falana, and I am seventeen years old. I have been a student at Pinellas Marine Institute (PMI) since December 2004. PMI is a community-based high school for students under the auspices of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.**

**In recent months, I, through discussions with my family, my mother in particular, made a decision to pursue my high school diploma through the General Educational Development (GED) program. Luckily, PMI offers the GED to its students, too.**

**We all learn through various venues: books, verbal, visual, and/or a combination of those mentioned above. I, myself, am a visual learner. At home, for example, I use the Internet for school research in one of my toughest subjects--math. I am lucky, I suppose, because many of my fellow classmates at PMI do not have a personal computer, much less Internet access.**

**In conclusion, I hope the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) agrees to help us, the students at Pinellas Marine Institute. We need your help!**

**Respectfully,**

*Darren Falana*  
**Darren J. Falana**

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6/3/05

CHAD DEAN

Today we are going to talk about the importance of technology. We are also going to be talking about the benefits of technology, the positive attribute in my development and my ability to achieve my goals. We are also going to be talking about how my life would be affected if technology was not available. To sum it all up I am going to tell you about a world of technology.

Here at the West Florida Wilderness Institute technology plays a big role in my life. I have learned new things in technology and have been taught more about the old things I knew. I ~~didn't~~ know much about technology until I came to W.F.W.I. and they taught me more than what I needed to know. ~~The~~ Learning technology at W.F.W.I. has changed my life in a fun positive way and I would like to say that it has done the same in others.

There are a lot of ways that technology benefits my time at W.F.W.I. It helps me to stay out of trouble and do something positive with my time. Another benefit that technology is for me it helps me look for a good job. On my free time I play a positive game on technology. There are a lot of great events of technology that will benefit me later on in life.

My life and development would be affected if technology was not available. I would still be the same negative person that I



used to be. If technology was not available I would not have found my positive highly paid career that I wanted to succeed in later on in life. Also if technology was not available I would not have wanted to go to college when I graduate. I don't think that the world would be what it is today if it wasn't for technology.

Now you see the importance of technology and the roles that technology play in our every day life. You also see the benefits that technology gives. Technology will get better and better every day. I believe that everyone needs technology. What better time to have technology in your life then if you were a person like me and needed help.

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Shayne Popovich

6-3-05

Technology.....how could you describe technology?  
fancy gadgets? shiny objects with buttons? There's many  
meanings to the word technology. Yet, to me the best word  
to suit it would be aid. An aid in searching for past  
times, new realms, or cures for diseases. A man can't use  
only brain power to hurdle a massive space shuttle through  
the vastness of space. Man also needs technology to aid them  
in doing it. And to the knowledge and profit technology can  
help bring. I believe every classroom should have technology.  
Technology can educate people, change lives, speed up  
the process of learning.

Why is the sky blue? How did dinosaurs  
become extinct? These are just two questions somebody  
might want to know. With the aid of a VCR, someone could  
learn why the sky is blue or dinosaurs are extinct by a  
movie. Computers that contain discs can educate people. I  
obtained my high school diploma on a computer. Not only  
did a computer get me my diploma faster but I learned faster  
from it. It showed me movies on the subjects I was learning  
and visual aids in understanding it. Technology further  
educates people everyday. Isn't that the reason why we  
use it?

The light bulb.....one advance in technology  
that changed the lives of millions and millions of people.  
Today's production is enormous because of the extra time to  
make goods. Technology changed my life. I recieved my  
Diploma with the aid of technology and now I want to  
help in inventing new methods of technology to help other  
people. Many people's careers and whole lives today are based  
simply on technology. Without technology people would be  
jobless, helpless, and even clueless. If I didn't have technology  
in my life then I would half as smart as I am now.

Now back to the space shuttle. Okay so man has the plan in order to launch into space. but how is the space shuttle going to get built. something of such extraordinary size would need cranes and gantries in order to be put together. Maybe man could put it together without technology, but how long would that take? fifty years? a hundred years? No one knows because they wouldn't even think of doing it unless they had the technology to aid them. Instead of flying to the jungle to study it you could watch a movie about it. or instead of taking the time to solve a brain busting math problem you could simply use a calculator. Technology speeds up the process of many things today.

So now I hope you know and can agree with me that technology is not just fancy gadgets or shiny objects with buttons but the eye in for seeing the future. Or the worm hole in space that leads to a whole new dimension. Technology has changed many lives including mine and helped me through my stay here drastically. What has it done for you?

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June 3, 2005

DARIUS WHITE

Why I think technology is needed in the classrooms is a good question.

One because technology has made me and other people smarter. It has been a positive Attribute in my development and my abilities to achieve my goals. Technology also benefit my time at West Florida.

Technology is needed in the classrooms because it gives students and teachers a chance to be a better learner, and to get smarter at what they do. Especially technology like computers gives the student different ways to learn different skills. also makes the teachers job essier when it comes to putting grades in or teaching student different work.

Technology also has been a positive Attribute in my development and my abilities to achieve my goals. By using the T.V. I have learned things that have helped me in a positive way in life. If modern technology was not available to west florida I think that we the students wouldn't show much progress in our school work. Modern technology also make days fun, whether it be watching a movie on the VCR or play skill games on the computer.

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Technology benefits my time at west florida  
by helping me study things on the  
computer that will help me with my  
career and also help pass time. Technology  
like headset radios keep me from losing  
my points at night, because I find me a  
corner and sit there quietly and listen to my  
radio and it also passes time at night.  
Technology like fax machines lets teachers  
send quick messages.

Technology is a very important feature in  
today's classroom and I think more is needed.

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Hi, my name is Stephen Savage, and I am a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at Panama City Marine Institute. I just wanted to say how much technology has been an extremely positive attribute in my development due to all the different programs I have grown up learning from. Technology is the future. I think that technology is going to be the success for my career goals in life and for many others to come, because everyone has goals in life. Technology such as computers helps with everything such as research and information. Books cannot provide this information for me in my time of need.

Technology such as computers makes my time at Panama City Marine Institute a wonderful time especially helping out with projects, such as our latest project, "Drug Awareness Visual Aid Project". Considering how old the school is, we could use more updated technology. The use of technology has increased my vocabulary, enhanced my reading skills, and made my environment and surroundings much more appealing to me.

If this technology was not available to me during my high school years, I would have probably failed every class and never passed. That's how important this is to me. I would have had troubles with things such as research, typing essays, and academic issues. Education is an important factor to my career goals in life and so is technology. In these modern days you can't just use books or encyclopedias to get all the information on one specific thing. You need all three or maybe just a computer. I am hopeful you all will agree with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Stephen Savage

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Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Ashley Bryant, and I am a student at the Panama City Marine Institute. Technology has been a really great thing in our school. We use our computers for almost everything that we do. For instance, we use them a lot for research. Most of the projects we do consist of some kind of research. In that case we use the internet. That helps me a great deal. We also use them for typing essays, and in most of our classes we write essays. The New Century Reading Software program is one of the things we do in our computer lab. This program helps me learn the skills I need to know to perform well on the FCAT. Since I've started using the reading software, I'm able to understand more. Like when I'm reading a story, I'm able to comprehend what it is about, and I'm able to answer questions about it. Without computers in our school, we wouldn't be able to do many things at all. Technology is really useful.

Sincerely,

*Ashley Bryant*  
Ashley Bryant

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*Dear Sir or Madam:*

This letter is concerning the great asset you have helped provide us with. Computers have become a great and truly appreciated privilege to PCMI. Computers can help students with subjects like math, social studies, reading skills, and science as well as help prepare us for the FCAT and the GED. The New Century software program that we are provided with is additionally helpful with skill training. Computers also give us access to vast information on almost any subject with access to the internet. Through the internet we can look up jobs, trades, colleges, and more facts that can help on our way through life. We truly appreciate your helping our organization and thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Justin Soltero





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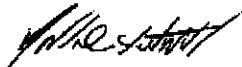
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Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a tenth grader at the Panama City Marine Institute. Computers and their software helped me research on different things like colleges, the Navy and Army Reserve. Finding out more about these things was one of my biggest goals, and these computers and software made it easier to find out more about these things. They (the computers) have helped with other things like education. They help with research papers and typing essays. They also have software for reading which helps people raise their reading level. These computers here at PCMI benefit me by containing the software I need to do and complete to get my High School credits. I feel I have a low math level and the internet helps me with it. I can find math lessons to complete online. If technology was not available there would be no High School Diplomas, GED, or colleges, pretty much no education. Schools and colleges rely so much on technology. If there were neither computers nor the fancy software, there would pretty much be no "Education". Thanks for taking time to read my letter.

Sincerely,



Mallie Xanthull

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm a 10th grader at PCMI. The computers and technology offered here are very useful to me. The way I look at it is if we didn't have the computer lab, we would struggle in our school work. We have a chance to practice for the FCAT, and we also get to search for the different colleges we want to go to. This lab also helps us to improve our Reading, English, Math and Science skills. I Truly Thank You All Who Believe and Trust In Us.

Sincerely,

*Sean A Hunt*

Sean A Hunt

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*Dear Sir or Madam,*

*My name is Kayla Pratt, and I am a student at the Panama City Marine Institute. Technology is very important to this school. We use computers a lot, and they make things a lot faster. For example typing this letter was much easier to type than to write. Computers help things go a lot faster. If you are given a specific amount of time to get something done, the internet and computers can help with the completion of that task.*

*Computers make it a lot easier to find things and save them. We use computers for a lot here at the Panama City Marine Institute. We use them for testing, writing, projects, and other important activities. You see Panama City Marine Institute does their best to see that we have a great day and part of a great day has a computer in it. If we lose the technology that we have then the learning process might not be as fun as it is!*

*Sincerely,*



*Kayla Pratt*

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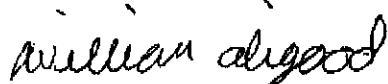
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Dear Sir or Madam,

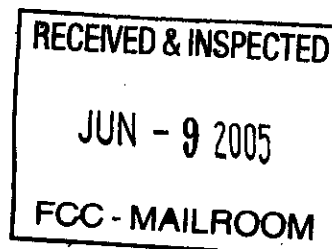
My name is William Aligood, and I am a ninth grader at Panama City Marine Institute. The technology at my school has been a wonderful helping hand for my progress, and all that I have learned. It has made it much easier to complete all of my essays and other reports. It would be a lot harder to sit and graze through books that you're not even sure of whether or not will provide the information you are looking for. With the technology, all you have to do is go on the internet, and you can find just about all of the facts about almost anything. It has also helped me with my essays and reports I have had to write. Therefore, it has made my learning experience at Panama City Marine Institute much easier. I not only have great teachers, but also have computers and other technology that helps me get through everyday even if it is a bad day.

Therefore, all of my eleven and a half months at Panama City Marine Institute have been much more peaceful and not so distressing. That is why I believe the technology has help so much in my progress. When I first started at Panama City Marine Institute I was a seventh grader and now thanks to the wonderful teachers and awesome technology I am now in the ninth grade.

Sincerely,



William Aligood



Dear sir or madam,

My name is Jamie Coxe, and I am a ninth grader at the Panama City Marine Institute. Technology benefits my time at this program by giving me more options to learn. It also allows me to use software for reading. If technology was not available, my life and academic development would be different in many ways. I'm sure things would be more difficult when it came to school work. I'm glad that we have lots of computers and software in our school. It makes doing things like book reports and essays more interesting for everyone. Technology is also important when FCAT comes around. We use the computers to study and prepare before the tests. It is important to me and other students to keep technology in our schools. We get a lot out of it, and that's why I think we should keep it in the classroom.

Sincerely,

Jamie Coxe

JUN - 9 2005

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To Whom This may concern:

I was ask to write this letter on how technology helps me in my education. Well here at JMI we have some computers that we do some of the school work on and it have helped me and I like the new virtual class on the computer. Me my self I am going to take the class. I Don't really have nothing ask to say so please appreciate my letter Thank you.

Jonathan W.

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JUN - 9 2006

REC-MAIL ROOM

To whom it may concern,

We are very proud with the computers that are here at J.M.I. We are very proud because the technology helps the kids and stuff that is very important to them. It helps me find me jobs. That's why technology is important to use.

Kwame J.

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Jeremy Asberry

To Whom It May Concern.

The computer technology has benefited us in many ways, especially me. This technology has given me a chance to graduate on time. This new virtual program going to help me get two credits that I need. The reason why is because without this virtual program I would have to spend one more extra year in high school trying to complete only 2 credits. This program is probably one of the greatest factor to my future.

Thank You



JUN - 9 005

FCC

Benjamin

To whom it may concern Caine

Today Young children today like to use technology for better learning experiences. Well my name is Benjamin Caine and I love the way the technology of the system is. It has help me to improve my learning skills. It helps information that needs to be know.

JUN - 9 2005

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To Whom It may concern:

Technology today makes it easier to get information faster and research easier. It helped me with my study's because if you need to research about something it is made fast and easy. It is important for to get money to support our school in our studies.

Kellie Arnold